

LESSON 12

OPPOSITION OF THE KUFFAR

The Quran says that Allah helps those people who seek the truth to find it. But those who see the truth and reject it, Allah confirms them in their disbelief and disobedience. The *Kuffar* of Makkah who were not convinced of the truth of Rasulullah's mission by his pure life, his plain message of the Quran, and the noble teachings of Islam tried hard to find excuses for not believing in Rasulullah (S). They placed obstinate demands upon him to prove his truthfulness. They spread all kinds of false propaganda against him.

The *Kuffar* could very well see that the Quran was a unique piece of literature which could not be imitated. The poets among the Arabs had very high status, but Muhammad (S) had never shown any poetic talent. When the *Kuffar* heard the *Wahi* in its most beautiful and perfect language, they were hard pressed to explain how an illiterate person could, all of a sudden, produce such knowledge. Many of them immediately thought that Muhammad (S) had become poet. But there is a great difference between poetic compositions and the message of the Quran. And the life of Rasulullah (S) was in sharp contrast to the life of poets. Allah refutes that charge. "We have not taught him poetry nor poetry is worthy of him." (*Ya Sin* 36:69)

The *Kuffar* should have known the difference between poetry and revelation. A poet uses only his imagination. His thoughts are stray and random and he rarely writes to deliver a message.

✓ There is also a great difference between a poet's words and deeds. The Quran says, "And how the poets say what they do not do." (*al-Shu'ara'* 26:226)

Rasulullah (S) was, on the other hand, a practical teacher. His life was the teachings of the Quran in practice. Besides, the Quran was a divine message for all mankind, and very different from any composition of poetry. The *Kuffar* should have understood that.

✓ Many *Kuffar* were not convinced that Muhammad (S) had all of a sudden become a poet. They needed some other explanation. They declared that Muhammad (S) was possessed by the *jinn*s (genies) and spirits. (2)

clear and reasonable

They were not thinking very clearly. Evil spirits do not have the noble purpose of guiding mankind to its creator. How can a man under the control of evil spirits act in noble way or deliver a coherent and pure message? The Quran said, "Shall I tell you upon whom the devils descend? They descend on every sinful and false person." [al-Shu'ara' 26:221-23].

Even the enemies of Islam knew that Muhammad (S) was noble, honest, and truthful. It should also be obvious to every reasonable person that people possessed by spirits are incoherent and inconsistent. They have no message to deliver. The Quran talked about the stupidity of the Kuffar:

Don't the Kuffar think that their friend (Muhammad) is not in any way under the influence of Jinns. Indeed! He is a plain warner (to the evil doers). al-A'raf 7:184

Some people had different ideas about messengers. They felt that Allah would not choose a human being for His cause. They expected at least an angel. They did not understand that an angel could not become a model for human actions. In Rasulullah (S) Allah created a human model for us to follow.

In the Arab mind, a prophet should be a supernatural being. Therefore, they ridiculed Rasulullah(S) by saying, "What kind of messenger is he, that he eats food and walks on the street." (al-Furqan 25:7). They expected the Prophet (S) to be accompanied by visible angels. Special gardens should grow to feed him, and God should offer him treasures to be distributed among the people. (See al-Furqan 25:8). The Kuffar were not prepared to receive the message; therefore, they were not ready to accept the role of the Prophet (S) as a model teacher.

The message of the Quran and authentic information it contained of the past events, made some people think how Muhammad (S) could all of a sudden become knowledgeable about unknown things. But they were not prepared to accept this sudden outpouring of knowledge in a most beautiful language as a proof of his prophethood. Therefore, they charged, "Only a man teaches him." (al-Nahl 16:103).

The Kuffar even mentioned the names of some foreign born slaves as teachers of Muhammad(S). They had accepted Islam but were still under the ownership of the Kuffar. The Quran refutes the charge of the Kuffar, "the speech of him whom the Kuffar refer is foreign and the Quran is in clear Arabic speech." (al-Nahl 16:103).

(6) Some *Kuffar* went so far as to accuse Rasulullah(S) of inventing lies. "Those who disbelieve say," the Quran declared, "this is nothing but a lie which he has invented, and other people have helped him in it." (al-Furqan 25:4). Allah defended Rasulullah (S) from all such accusations, confirming, "He (Allah), who knows the secret of heavens and those of the earth, has revealed it." (al-Furqan 25:6)

In fact, all these accusations of the *Kuffar* have no basis. They themselves were not convinced of their rationality. But they disbelieved, so they wanted some explanation of the miraculous nature of the Quran and Rasulullah's source of true information. They also wanted to convince people not to accept Rasulullah's message. This propaganda did play a role in keeping many people away from Rasulullah (S). However, his charming personality, his sincerity, and the power of the words of the Quran were such that many people decided to meet him and hear the Quran. Whoever did so with an open mind became convinced of the truth of his mission and accepted Islam.

In a later chapter we shall deal in detail with the real causes of *Kuffars'* refusal to accept Muhammad (S) as Allah's messenger and prophet.

Points of review:

1. The *Kuffar* opposed Rasulullah (S) by placing obstinate demands upon him.
2. The *Kuffar* thought that Rasulullah (S) had become a poet or was possessed by *jinns*, that someone else was teaching him, or that he himself was inventing lies.
3. In the Quran, Allah defended His prophet from all such accusations.

Words to remember:

jinns, obstinate, propaganda, rationality, unique.

Quranic Study

Keeping firmly to your own ideas or ways, even though they may be wrong.

We have quoted many verses to show the *Kuffar's* accusations and Allah's defense of Rasulullah's mission. Find these verses in the Quran and see how the Quran presents these arguments. Write Quran's arguments in support of Rasulullah (S) in your own words.